GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4724
ANSWERED ON:25.04.2000
BIOAGRICULTURE
SHEELA GAUTAM

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have enlisted the farmers engaged in bio-agriculture;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to promote the low-cost inputs based agriculture;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government propose to invest in the research and development of bio-agriculture; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

(SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT)

(a), (b), (c) & (d) : About 2, 50, 000 farmers and extension personnel have been trained throughout the country under technology development and demonstration of biopesticides and biofertilisers. The objective is to provide low cost inputs to farmers to increase crop productivity and retaining soil fertility. An integrated project of nutrient and pest management has also been implemented. A number of technologies for mass production of biofertilisers and biopesticides suitable for most of the economically important crops have been developed and demonstrated into farmers field. Some of these technologies have been transferred to small entrepreneurs for large scale production and marketing and Government is promoting the integrated approach of bio-agriculture including nutrient and pest management during 9th plan with special emphasis on imparting training to farmers and extension functionaries.

(e) : Yes, Sir.

(f) : Government is supporting R&D in the area of bio-agriculture covering new product development, molecular level understanding, quality control, shelf-life etc. To promote and encourage the use of bio-control agents and biofertilisers, State Governments and some promising entrepreneurs are being provided grants to establish production units along with quality control laboratories.